



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

From the Standards and Assessment Division

December 4, 2001

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

The State Board of Education (SBE), at its November meeting, outlined plans for the continuing implementation of the STAR Program that was reauthorized by Senate Bill 233. The SBE determined to select a single contractor for STAR and use the designation process rather than the Request for Proposal process for the selection. The designated contractor, to begin when the current contract expires, will:

- provide the normed-reference test in English
- continue development of the California Standards Tests
- Coordinate the administration, scoring, and reporting for STAR

Performance Standards Adopted for Math, Science, and History-Social Science

The SBE adopted performance standards for the California Mathematics, Science, and History-Social Science Tests, after receiving input from teachers, administrators, parents, and community members at regional public hearings. The SBE also adopted revised performance standards for the English-Language Arts Standards Tests in grades 4 and 7. The writing test adds 8 points to a total possible score of 98 points for the California English Language Arts Standards in grades 4 and 7—50 points for reading and 48 points for writing.

The SBE did not adopt performance standards for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Integrated Mathematics Tests or the four coordinated science tests. Results for these tests indicate that the students tested in spring 2001 may not have had the opportunity to learn the knowledge and skills for the content standards addressed on the tests.

STAR Reports Revised for 2002

The SBE adopted sub-score categories for the California Standards Tests that will be on the parent, student, and group reports for the 2002 administration. The reports will include scaled scores and performance standards for the California Standards Tests as well as the number correct for each sub-score

category. The STAR Parent Report for 2002 has been revised to emphasize the results of the California Standards Tests and to de-emphasize Stanford 9 results.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

Information/Training Materials Now on Website

The Standards and Assessment Division is in the process of updating the materials on the website to include changes required by AB 1609 that excludes ninth graders from taking the CAHSEE. Several documents are now available on the CAHSEE website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee>:

- Regulations on Accommodations as adopted by the State Board of Education in November can be found under *Administrative Documents*
- CAHSEE Scale Score Conversion and Weighting for Spring 2001 administration is available under *Resources*
- Questions and Answers Regarding the Scoring Process for the Spring 2001, English-Language Arts writing tasks are also available under *Resources*
- The Parent Notification Packet has been translated into Spanish and is now available under *Resources in Spanish*.
- "Providing Accommodations for the Spring 2002 Administrations Training Manual" can be found under *Administrative Documents*

New Contractor Sets Up Field Service Center

Educational Testing Service (ETS) is the new CAHSEE contractor for item development and test administration, and Andy Latham is the Project Manager. ETS has established a

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Service Center that may be reached via email at CAHSEE-Support@ets.org, or via toll-free telephone at 800-241-5687. This office will handle calls regarding test materials.

Test Administration Workshops Scheduled

ETS will conduct six regional training sites for testing coordinators to prepare for the spring 2002 administration. The dates and tentative locations are:

- January 22: Sacramento
- January 23: Oakland
- January 24: Fresno
- January 28: LA-Downey
- January 29: LA-Burbank area
- January 30: San Diego

Additional information about the training sessions will be forthcoming.

Physical Fitness Test

Results Released for 2001

More than one million students participated in the annual testing program re-established by law in 1995. Districts are required to report results to the Governor and Legislature at least once every two years. As of spring 2001, reporting is on an annual basis. Fitnessgram, developed by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research, is the test designated by the SBE for this purpose. Students must meet minimum fitness standards for all six areas of the test to be considered physically fit. Approximately 90 percent of school districts submitted data in 2001—an increase of 32 percent from 1999, the last year the test was given. The number of students participating increased by 13 percent.

Overall, there were no major changes between the 1999 and 2001 results. The newly released report showed:

- An increase from 20% to 23% in the number of students that are considered fit
- 21 percent of fifth graders, 25 percent of seventh graders, and 23 percent of ninth graders tested met all six fitness standards
- Across all grade levels, more females than males were in the healthy fitness zone for flexibility, body composition, and trunk extension strength
- More males than females were in the fitness zone for abdominal strength and upper body strength.
- In fifth and seventh grades, more females than males met all six standards; in ninth grade, more males than females did
- Both males and females from all ethnic groupings could benefit from a greater emphasis on all areas of physical fitness—especially aerobic capacity, body composition, upper body strength, and flexibility

- 42 to 51 percent of students across fifth, seventh, and ninth grades did not meet minimum fitness standard for aerobic capacity
- More than 31 percent did not meet the standards for body composition, upper body strength, and flexibility
- 14 percent to 18 percent of the students did not meet the minimum standard for trunk strength
- 19 percent to 21 percent did not meet the standard for abdominal strength.

The 2001 physical fitness results for schools, districts, counties, and the state are available on the CDE's Web site <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/pe/pe.html>. No individual student data will be reported on the Internet.

Assessments in Career Education (ACE)

Teacher Guides Updated for ACE

Teacher guides for all five Assessments in Career Education have been updated for the 2002 administration. Content areas to be tested in spring 2002 are: Agricultural Core; Computer Science and Information Systems; Health Care, Level 1; Food Services and Hospitality; and Technology Core. The guides are posted on the ACE website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/ace/ace.html>. The Accommodations for the Assessments in Career Education for special education students will also be posted.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

NAEP is struggling to meet its California school participation goal for the spring 2002 administration. Our current response rates as of December are estimated to be: 4th grade—44%, 8th grade—37%, and 12th grade—32%. The minimum accepted rate is 70%. If a school in your district has been contacted by NAEP and has not responded yet, please contact Eric Zilbert, Standards and Assessment, at (916) 657-4543.

For More Information...

For more information about any of the state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 657-3011 (phone), at (916) 657-4964 (fax), at STAR@cde.ca.gov (e-mail), or at www.cde.ca.gov (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the appropriate person.